Essential Commodities Act, greater vigilance by the Customs and BSF Authorities in the border areas, issue of ration cards to all PDS consumers in the north eastern States were some of the important decisions taken in the meeting.

(d) The corrective measures include intensified patrolling at the border, erection of OP Towers, construction of border roads, barbed wire fencing in smuggling prone areas, gearing up intelligence machinery etc.

Leakage of a Secret Circular in Goa

2923. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had sent secret circulars to the State Government to keep vigil on alleged smugglers in view of landing of RDX after the Bombay bombing of 14th March, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of leakage of this circular to the Press in Goa ; and

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been instituted to apprehend the culprits under the Official Secrets Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per information furnished by the State Government of Goa, an enquiry has already been ordered by the State Government in this regard.

Corruption in Distribution of Kerosene Oil

@2924. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH JATHER :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the demands submitted by the Kerosene Dealers Association are pending with the Central Government for consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and by when Government propose to settle their demands;

(c) what remedial steps Government have taken to check the irregularities and high level corruption in the distribution of kerosene oil to the dealers under P.D.S.; and

(d) whether Government have conducted any survey to ensure the availability of kerosene oil to the consumers at the prices fixed, if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) A communication from the All India Kerosene Dealers Federation for a revision in the Commission admissible to wholesalers has been received. This is under examination.

(c) The officials of the State Governments regularly undertake visits and surprise checks of the retail outlets to oversee the supply and distribution of PDS Commodities to the Consumers. State Governments/U. T. Administrations have been advised to constitute Vigilance Committee at various levels and Fair Price Shop/village level. Action is taken against dafaulting distributors and others.

(d) State Governments/U. T. Administrations take necessary steps in this regard.

Growth of Indigenous Production of Petroleum Products

2925. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state : (a)whether there is stagnation in the growth of indigenous production of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the indigenous production is keeping pace with the growth of consumption of petroleum products;

(d) whether any research has been made to find out indigenous alternative fuels; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Several projects for creation of additional refining capacity in the country are under various stages of implementation/ approval. Implementation of these projects will

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@Previously Unstarred Question 1742, transferred from 9th August, 1993.

result in growth of indigenous production of petroleum products. However, indigenous production of crude oil is likely to be lower than the projected demand in the next few years.

(d) and (e) Pilot project on an experimental basis are under implementation to use compressed Natural Gas as a substitute for automobile fuel. Tests and trials are also in progress to use methanol as an alternative fuel.

Charging of Exorbitant Prices for Stoves By L. P. G. Dealers

2926. DR. YELAMANCHILLI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that L. P. G. dealers are charging exorbitant price for stoves, when a new customer goes for connection;

(b) if so, what steps are taken in this regard;

(c) whether any complaints in this regard have been received from A. P.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The customers are at liberty to purchase hot plate from any source at any price provided it bear the ISI mark. The distributors have standing instructions not to insist on purchase of hot plate from them and are required to display a notice in their showrooms that it is not obligatory for a customer to purchase hot plate from the distributor releasing the connection. Whenever complaints in this regard are received, these are enquired into by the concerned Oil Company and if established, necessary penal action is taken against the distributor.

(c) According to LPG marketing companies no such complaints have been received from Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Does not arise.

Separate Quota of Kerosene for Traditional Fishermen in Gujarat

2927. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India allocate quota of kerosene for traditional fishermen in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what is the quantity and what is the base of such allocation;

(c) whether Government of India are aware that Gujarat having a vast coastal area, requires more quota of kerosene for fishing purpose;

(d) whether Government of Gujarat has requested for additional allocation of kerosene for fishing purpose;

(e) if so, what action has been taken by the Government of India; and

(f) if additional quota is not allotted what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present 390 MT per month of kerosene is allocated to Gujarat for the fishing sector within its overall quota, on historical basis.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Kerosene is a deficit product. More than 40% of the quantity consumed is imported. For this reason, it has not been possible to consider the request for additional allocation so far. Kerosene however can now be imported under the parallel Marketing Scheme for sale at market prices.

Fire at Indian Oil Building at Bandra Mumbai

2928. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out in Indian Oil building at Bandra, Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the measures taken or being taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.